



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Selectmen's Minutes 03-10-2008

### TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, March 10, 2008

6:30 p.m.

Present: Ms. LaCourt, Chair, Mrs. Mahon, Vice Chair, Mr. Greeley, Mr. Hurd and Ms. Rowe.  
 Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Maher and Mrs. Krepelka

#### FOR APPROVAL

1. CONSENT AGENDA (one vote required for approval of all items)
  - a. Minutes of Meeting: March 3, 2008
  - b. Appointments  
 New Election Workers  
 Jane Puopolo, 273 Washington Street
  - c. Contractor/Drain Layer License  
 Olson Pipe Company, 73 Butternut Lane, Rindge, NH
  - d. Contractor/Drain Layer License  
 Patriot Excavating Corp., 48-1 Nonset Path, Acton, MA  
 Ms. Rowe moved approval. SO VOTED (5-0)
2. Robert Jefferson, Newly Appointed Fire Chief  
 Brian Sullivan, Town Manager

Town Manager Brian Sullivan stated he was pleased to have the opportunity to appoint Robert Jefferson as the Town's new Fire Chief. Mr. Sullivan stated that Chief Jefferson has a long distinguished career with the fire department. He has shown he has the leadership abilities necessary to be an effective chief and has demonstrated a good understanding of the issues confronting the department. Mr. Sullivan feels Chief Jefferson has the vision of where the department needs to be led over the next decade.

Mr. Hurd congratulated Chief Jefferson and feels he will be a wonderful chief.

Mrs. Mahon congratulated Chief Jefferson and had nothing but glowing praises for the new chief.

Mr. Greeley congratulated Chief Jefferson and feels the community and department will be forever grateful for his services.

Ms. Rowe congratulated Chief Jefferson, she feels he will make a real effort to work with the Capital Planning Committee and welcomes him aboard.

Ms. LaCourt also congratulated Chief Jefferson and thanked him for always being available for helping out the "Freshman Selectmen".

Police Chief Frederick Ryan

### Certification from the MA Police Accreditation Commission

Police Chief Frederick Ryan appeared before the Board of Selectmen and announced that the Arlington Police Department has achieved certification from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC), an independent professional organization. It is a formal recognition that the department meets or exceeds national standards of performance and operation effectiveness that have been established for the law enforcement profession, by the law enforcement profession.

Arlington is only the 32<sup>nd</sup> police department in the state to achieve certification from MPAC.

The MPAC certification is the result of a voluntary evaluation process in which the department was independently assessed against 151 specific standards of excellence in police management, operations, and technical support activities. The standards reflect best practice in areas such as policy development, emergency response planning, training, communications, property and evidence handling, use of force, vehicular pursuit, prisoner transportation and holding facilities.

Achieving certification from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission is considered a very significant accomplishment and is a recognition that is highly regarded by the law enforcement community.

Mr. Hurd congratulated Chief Ryan for achieving this award.

Mrs. Mahon applauded Chief Ryan for applying and instituting this accreditation.

Ms. Rowe congratulated Chief Ryan and stated it was a wonderful tribute to all the men and women of the Police Department.

Mr. Greeley congratulated Chief Ryan and stated this signifies how the department stands out in receiving this award.

Ms. LaCourt congratulated Chief Ryan and his team for all their hard work.

### State Representative Sean Garballey

The Board of Selectmen congratulated Representative Garballey on his newly elected position as State Representative.

Representative Garballey stated that he looks forward to working with the Board.

## **7:30 p.m. Public Hearing**

### **3. Vote: CDBG Applications for new funds**

Kevin O'Brien, Director of Planning

The following employees/residents appeared before the Board to support their request for CDBG funding:

John J. Griffin, Executive Director, Arlington Housing Authority requested \$150,000 for the affordable housing one bedroom condominium purchase program grant. The AHA is requesting a grant of \$150,000 that can be combined with any other suitable financing method available to purchase one or two one-bedroom condominiums over the next 12 to 18 months. These units will be purchased at a market rate through the RFP Process. Due to a change in family composition, there are currently 7 families that are considered over-housed at this time. Three of the seven families have incomes below \$10,000. In 2007 the AHA used a \$150,000 grant from previous CDBG funding and purchased a one bedroom condominium unit in Arlington. The \$150,000 request represents one-third of the cost to buy two units or about two-thirds the cost for one unit.

Of 136 households leased in our Menotomy Manor family units:

52 households have a total income of less than \$25,000.

30 households have a total income of less than \$20,000.

30 households have a total income of less than \$10,000.

Clearly, most of these households cannot afford the financial responsibilities of renting in the private market. They need a place to live with rents that are within their income, and they are representative of many others. Working to increase the number of affordable rental units to meet these low incomes is a very difficult challenge. Funding for this request will help.

David Levy, Executive Director, Housing Corporation of Arlington, stated that in 2007 we had the following affordable

apartments:

117 residents including 56 children.

187 new and renewing members in 2007.

Homelessness Prevention Fund assisted 33 Arlington households (81 individuals, including 39 children) with other \$36,000 in grants in 2007.

170 people on our waiting list of which 30% are Arlington residents.

Mr. Levy also stated that the Housing Corporation is having a Seventh Annual Walk for Affordable Housing on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. The walk will start and finish on the lawn of the Jason Russell House.

John Jope, Executive Director, Council on Aging, asked the Board to vote favorable action on his request of \$67,850. for the Transportation Enterprise Program. The Council on Aging Transportation Enterprise Fund received \$57,850 in CDBG funding for FY 2008. The subsidized taxi program provides community access, within Arlington only, seven days per week for those elders who would otherwise find it difficult to get out. The taxi contractor receives \$7.50 for each one-way ride provided, up from \$6.00 per ride in past years. The remainder of the cost (\$4.50 for a one-way ride) is borne by the Council on Aging Transportation Program. There remains a discounted rate for multiple clients with the same pickup/drop-off points. Three hundred fifty (350) – four hundred (400) one-way rides are provided each month through the tax subsidy program.

Robert Tosti, Chairman, Council on Aging, asked the Board to vote favorable on his request of \$43,584 for the Transportation Coordinator/Supervisor of Volunteers. The Coordinator works directly for the Council on Aging to organize program activities and recruit volunteers who provide services throughout the community. Mr. Tosti stated that there are many COA programs that would not exist without the dedication and continued involvement of COA volunteers.

Angela Alton, parent and PTO Board Members, Thompson School, asked the Board to please consider the Thompson School request of \$77,200 for new sidewalks on Everett Street and North Union Street. The request is to construct a curbed sidewalk along the east side of Everett Street which currently has no sidewalk and also construct a curbed sidewalk along the west side of North Union Street which currently has a "sidewalk area" with no curb.

Ms. Alton presented a petition signed by 190 residents requesting the Town of Arlington install curbed sidewalks along the east side of Everett Street which currently has no sidewalk and along the west side of North Union Street which currently has a sidewalk area with no curb.

Ms. LaCourt thanked Ms. Alton for bringing the issues to the attention of the Board of Selectmen and feels it is critical to improve safety conditions at Thompson School.

Ms. Rowe stated she had a chance to look at the sidewalk and this is on top of her list to improve conditions.

Mrs. Mahon agreed with Ms. Alton and stated she would go visit the area and agreed that the Town needs to be creative with this situation and feels it is a high priority.

Mr. Greeley stated he will be voting for this request.

Lisa Urban, Youth Program Director, asked the Board to vote favorable action on the request for Fidelity House regarding the Menotomy Manor Outreach Program in the amount of \$15,000. The Menotomy Manor Outreach Program originated to directly address the developmental needs of Arlington's low income youth, offer opportunities and help assimilate them into the community. It is a one of a kind program in Arlington that is able to offer long term benefits and has served well over a thousand children since its inception.

Mr. Hurd, Ms. LaCourt and Mr. Sullivan will be meeting as the Sub-Committee on March 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss all CDBG requests.

Mr. Greeley moved receipt of report.

SO VOTED (5-0)

#### **7:45 p.m. Public Hearing**

#### **4. FY2009 Budget Presentation**

Brian Sullivan, Town Manager

Town Manager gave his FY2009 Budget Presentation to department heads and the general public. After the presentation Mr. Adam Austin, 10 Cottage Avenue voiced his concerns with the allocation of the budget between the town and school. The schools are facing a \$1.25 million shortfall that leaves the system facing cuts, teachers being reduced, increases in fees. Mr. Austin

suggested a possibility of the town presenting two possible budgets in the future, one that includes a shift of funding to the schools by a half to one percentage point. This way he said Town Meeting could choose from more than one allocation possibility while adhering to the five year plan of no general overrides. He is afraid once we make cuts in the school services we aren't going to get them back. He pointed out issues with increasing class sizes due to cuts, specifically mentioning the Hardy Elementary School where some classes could reach a 28-student capacity.

Gordon Jamieson, 163 Scituate Street, presented the Selectmen with his FY09 Budget Issues—"The Big Problem – Questions/Possible Solutions." Ms. LaCourt thanked Mr. Jamieson for his report.

The Board of Selectmen and Town Manager stated the effects of low state aid, and the sacrifices that the town has made in terms of cuts in order to balance the budget under their control. Chairman LaCourt stated that there has to be attention paid to rising special education and health care costs and that town officials are collaborating with each other to figure out the best methods of cost saving to ensure cuts across the board are minimized.

## 5. **CITIZENS OPEN FORUM**

Any matter presented for consideration of the Board shall neither be acted upon, nor a decision made the night of the presentation in accordance with the policy under which the Open Forum was established.

There were no matters presented for consideration of the Board.

## **TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS**

### 6. **Report: Parade Committee**

Brian Greeley

Mr. Greeley came before the Board and stated that when the Patriots' Day Committee decided to hold the parade on April 20<sup>th</sup> they did not realize that Passover begins at sundown on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. He asked the Board for some feedback and to let the Committee know their feelings on this date.

Ms. LaCourt stated that she would e-mail her friends and would get back to Mr. Greeley.

Mr. Greeley also stated that the Committee was thinking of having a "Breakfast" the Sunday before the Town Election as a fund raiser for Patriots' Day. Ms. Rowe stated that she didn't feel that was a good idea because of all the elections this year and everyone's pocketbooks are dwindling. The other Board members agreed with Ms. Rowe.

Mr. Greeley agreed with the Board's decision not to have this breakfast on that Sunday and stated that the Committee may decide to have the "Breakfast" after the election.

Mr. Greeley stated the Committee had met with the Woburn Police Chief regarding hiring a concession company to hire the many vendors that attend the Arlington Parade.

Mr. Greeley will report to Town Counsel regarding the language of said agreement before following through with this idea.

By hiring a concession company, said company would make a donation to the Parade Committee.

Mr. Greeley also stated that David McKenna, former Safety Officer, would be the Honorary Grand Marshall and Chief of Staff this year. At this time the Grand Marshall has not been confirmed.

Mr. Hurd moved receipt of Mr. Greeley's report.

SO VOTED (5-0)

### 7. **Request: No Parking Sign**

Elaine Alexis, Heritage Square Condominium Trust

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

### 8. **Discussion: Future BOS Meetings**

April 28<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m.

May 5 and 19 – 7:00 p.m.

June 2 and 16 – 7:15 p.m.

July 14 – 7:15 p.m.

August 11 – 7:15 p.m.

September 8 and 29 – 7: 15 p.m.

## 9. **WARRANT ARTICLE HEARINGS**

Article 18 Bylaw Amendment/Title I, Article 1, Sec. 7

Mr. Maher will have a proposed motion and comment at the next meeting of the Board on 3/19/08 meeting.

Mrs. Mahon moved to table until the 3/19/08 meeting. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 19 Acceptance of Legislation/Bylaw Amendment/Affordable Housing Trust

Mr. Hurd recommended no action. Mr. Maher stated he would look at other options and report back at the next meeting on 3/19/08.

Mr. Hurd moved to table until the 3/19/08 meeting. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 30 Establish Committee/Honor of Margaret T. Spengler

(tabled from 3/3/08 meeting)

Mrs. Katharine Fennelly, Chair, Robbins Library Board of Trustees will refer said request to the Memorial Committee.

Mr. Hurd moved no action. SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 32 Endorsement of CDBG Application

Mr. Greeley moved favorable action. SO VOTED (5-0)

## 10. **FINAL VOTES AND COMMENTS**

Article 17 Bylaw Amendment/Opening and Closing of  
Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Article 22 Bylaw Amendment/Alcoholic Beverages

Article 23 Bylaw Amendment/Entertainment

Articles 28 & 29 Bylaw Amendment/Canine Control

Article 31 Home Rule Legislation/Special Legislation for Name-Change of Scholarship Fund

Article 33 Authority to File for Grants

Article 35 Home Rule Legislation/Matthew Silva

Article 36 Home Rule Legislation/Thomas Wesley

Article 37 Home Rule Legislation/James Carnell

Article 38 Home Rule Legislation/Matthew Earley

Article 39 Home Rule Legislation/Robert Griffin

Article 40 Home Rule Legislation/Tara Diab

Article 48 Permissive Legislation

Article 56 Establish Committee/Outdoor Swimming Pool

Article 74 Appropriation/Medicare Part D Reimbursements

Article 75 Contributory Retirement Board Report

Article 76 Services to Non-Profits

Article 77 Appropriation/Special Education Services

Mr. Greeley asked that under Article 56 Mr. Maher add three (3) citizens to the Committee.

Mr. Greeley moved approval. SO VOTED (5-0)

## **Correspondence Received**

John D. Leone                      ACMI Annual Audit                      Be Rec'd  
ACMI, President

Bernard Cohen                      Green Line Extension Project                      Be Rec'd  
EOT, Secretary

David Stoff                      Alewife Brook: Sanitary Conditions                      Be Rec'd  
88 Fairmont Street

John Murray                      Resignation: Cemetery Expansion                      Be Rec'd  
34 Thesda Road                      Committee

The Board accepted Mr. Murray's resignation and asked that a thank you be sent to Mr. Murray to thank him for his service. Also, the Board asked Mrs. Krepelka to advertise for the present vacancy.

Massachusetts Police                      Certification to the Arlington Police Dept                      Be Rec'd  
Accreditation Commission, Inc.

Mrs. Mahon moved receipt of correspondence.                      SO VOTED (5-0)

#### New Business

Mr. Maher stated the he would be putting something in the Policy and Procedures Booklet for next year regarding Town Meeting Articles. Mr. Greeley would like more "teeth" in the Warrant Articles.

Mr. Sullivan stated that the Committee is interviewing candidates for the next Town Counsel and will keep the Board informed. Mr. Sullivan informed the Board that Forest Street is now on the docket for repaving and he will report back to the Board when he has more details.

Mr. Sullivan reminded the Board that in their packet was a letter regarding Symmes Neighborhood Update and a letter from Mass. Highways regarding traffic lights on Summer Street.

Mr. Greeley reminded the Board that he would like their "singing voices" at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday at the Senior Citizens St. Patrick's Day Party.

Mrs. Mahon asked that we have a moment of silence next Monday for Dennis Shaughnessy, former Fire and Police Mechanic, who passed away this morning.

Mrs. Mahon reported that a meeting will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Peirce School regarding the construction of Summer Street.

Mass. Highway Engineers and Contractors will be attending. This will be the last meeting and Mrs. Mahon is asking all residents of Summer Street who have been affected by this construction to attend so their questions can be answered.

Mrs. Mahon attended a meeting with the Governor's Education Secretary regarding the Governor's Readiness Program.

Mr. Hurd stated that he and Mrs. Mahon met with the Snow & Ice Committee last week and had a great discussion. The committee discussed the snow emergency procedures and enforcement. The committee will continue to do a better job and is considering recommending hiring a detail officer to work the snow emergency and give out tickets which would bring in more revenues for the Town.

Ms. Rowe stated that she was disturbed with the letter and pictures the Board received from David Stoff regarding sanitary conditions along the Alewife Brook. She feels it is horrible that these neighbors have to live with these unsanitary conditions. Ms. Rowe asked that the Town Manager and Board send a letter to DCR.

Mr. Greeley moved approval.                      (SO VOTED (5-0))

Ms. LaCourt stated that she attended the Youth Health & Safety Coalition and was shocked with the results of student risk

behavior survey results. There will be another meeting in May and Ms. LaCourt feels it would be beneficial for the Board to attend said meeting.

Also, Christine Connelly, Director of Board of Health, will be attending a Selectmen's Meeting in June 2008 regarding these issues.

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn at 10:45 p.m.

A true record: Attest:

Marie A. Krepelka  
Board Administrator

#### **Executive Session**

**Next meeting of BOS March 19, 2008.**